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10/10/17

How was your commute this morning? Thought so. The vast majority of Americans, 75% of us, still travel to work by car. But let's take a quick look at just one U.S. city: Charlotte. **Car crashes were up 10%** there last year. And that's with more folks sitting out the morning rush — Charlotte's share of workers who "telecommuted" last year rose to nearly 7%, according to new info from the **American Community Survey**. It was 4% in 2006. Nationwide, 2.7 million more Americans worked from home than a decade ago. That's despite high-profile companies such as **Wells Fargo** announcing plans to reel workers back into the office. The trend toward working from home is most pronounced among those with higher incomes and the highly educated.

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Benchmark Litigation names Brooks Pierce
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Manufacturing Day

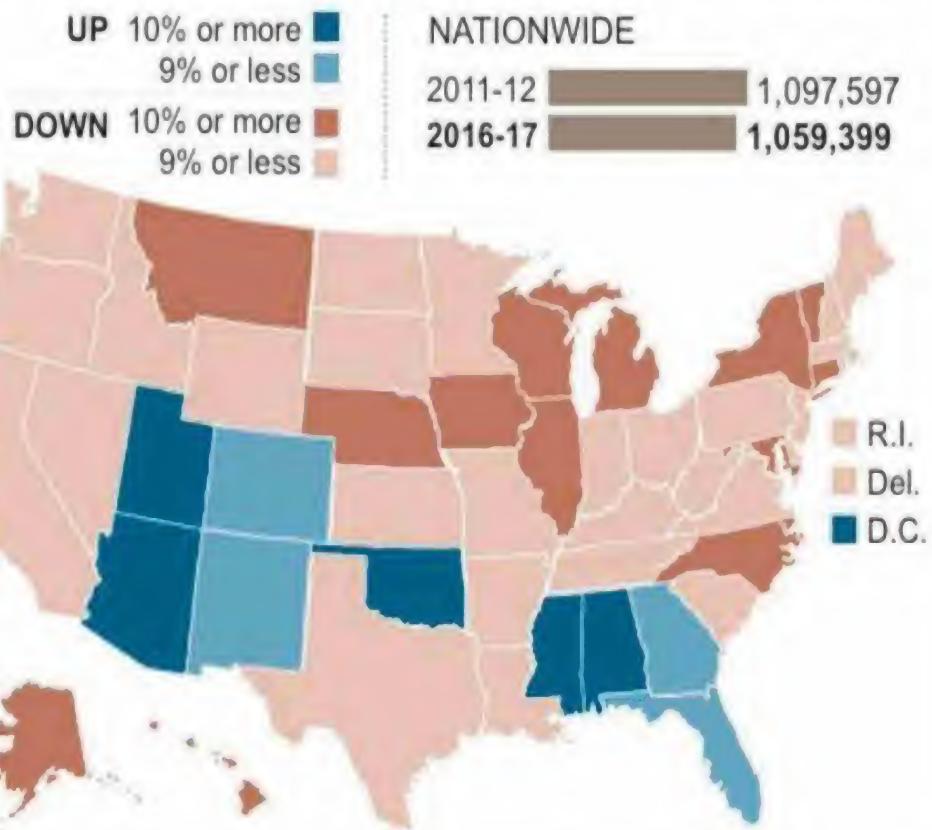
With 77 events around the state last Friday, it's likely that a factory near you opened its doors to show neighbors — and buses of schoolchildren — how it makes everything from fishing rods to truck engines. **Manufacturing Day** showcased what Gov. Cooper calls the largest manufacturing workforce in the Southeast: 460,000 workers accounting for 20% of North Carolina's gross state product, fifth-highest in the U.S. Last year, N.C. manufacturers exported \$28.25 billion in goods.

Friday night ... lights out?

We digest a lot of information here at *BNC*, but here's an infographic I wasn't expecting: A map of U.S. states showing a **decline in high school football participation** with North Carolina showing the biggest drop among Southern states. On the one hand, I spent a lot of time with newspaper colleagues who covered the relentlessly strong **Scotland High School** in Laurinburg and its loyal following. On the other, as a parent, my kids' school newsletters are filled with lacrosse lesson signups, not football. Sports are still popular with the digital generation, but with fewer kids playing football not to mention a decline in TV ratings for the NFL, NBA and NASCAR, are traditional sports destined to take a hit?

High school football on the decline

Participation in high school football is down 3.5 percent around the U.S., in part because of concerns about head injuries. Forty-one states have seen a drop over the past five years.



SOURCE: National Association of State High School Federations

AP

Today's number: \$11.21

Amount per hog that U.S. farmers are expected to lose this month as a **record number of hogs are slaughtered**, causing pork prices to fall. That adds up to big money for North Carolina, No. 2 in pork production, behind Iowa.

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State to offer new Ocracoke service for those without cars

(Carolina Journal)

The N.C. Department of Transportation is starting a new service next summer enabling passengers without cars to pay \$15 for a round trip from Hatteras to Ocracoke Village. The project comes at an initial cost of \$6 million paid from federal and state funds. Six vehicle-ferry vessels making 36 trips each way during summer months now serve the route. There is no charge for that service.

NC environmental agency rejects pipeline plan

(The News & Observer, Raleigh)

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality says a plan for the 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline doesn't meet state standards for erosion and sediment control. The natural-gas pipeline, proposed by Duke Energy, Dominion Energy, Southern Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas, would traverse eight N.C. counties. In a statement Monday, Duke said the response from the environmental agency is "a normal part of the process" and that the utility will provide additional information requested.

JPMorgan tops Bank of America in deposit count

JPMorgan Chase has more deposits than Bank of America, marking the first time in 23 years that the Charlotte-based company hasn't been the industry leader. JPMorgan's deposits reached \$1.31 trillion as of June 30, 2017, according to the FDIC. BofA finished with \$1.29 trillion. It has closed 3% of its branches in the last year.

BB&T makes more job cuts in Pennsylvania, 3 years after purchase

(Lancasteronline.com)

BB&T is laying off 82 employees in the former Susquehanna Bank headquarters in Lititz, Pa., and selling the building to an unidentified buyer. The dismissals are scheduled to occur in December. BB&T bought Susquehanna for \$2.5 billion in 2014. BB&T now has about 350 workers in Lancaster County, Pa., down from 900 at the time of the merger.

Bob Rucho asks for clearer study of UNC System operations

(Progressive Pulse)

The UNC Board of Governors needs to get serious about finding ways to reduce costs and lower tuition, member Bob Rucho of Charlotte said Monday. The study should look at ways the UNC System's general administration operates and decide if some duties could be shifted to individual universities. Last month system President Margaret Spellings urged the governors to "let me manage the enterprise, and let them set policy." Rucho is a retired state senator who lives in Charlotte.

Elon names its first female president

(Greensboro News & Record)

Elon University named Constance "Connie" Ledoux Book its ninth president. Book, 52, has been provost of The Citadel in South Carolina. She will be the university's first female president. Book, who worked at Elon for 16 years as an administrator and faculty member, succeeds Leo Lambert, who is stepping down after 19 years.

Michael Jordan gives \$7M for Charlotte medical clinics

(WFAE)

Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan is partnering with Novant Health to open two health clinics in low-income neighborhoods near downtown Charlotte. Jordan is donating

over five years. Patients living in the communities don't currently have convenient access to health care, Novant says.

Daimler produces 15,000th truck for Old Dominion Freight Line

(*Salisbury Post*)

Daimler Trucks North America celebrated the milestone at its Cleveland plant on Monday. Twelve thousand of the 15,000 trucks Daimler has made for the Thomasville-based trucking company were built in Cleveland. The partnership extends back to 1991.



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